

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are currently pending. Claims 1-3 and 7-13 are amended; and Claims 14-19 are added by the present amendment. Support for amended Claims 1-3 and 7-13 can be found in the original claims, drawings, and specification as originally filed.¹ No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,284,259 to Takada et al. (hereinafter “the ‘259 patent”).

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a networked image data transmitting apparatus, including, *inter alia*:

... an image data obtaining section configured to obtain image data;

a first networked image forming apparatus configured to receive the image data and to form an image; and

a serial bus configured to simultaneously transmit the image data from the image data obtaining section to the first networked image forming apparatus and to at least one other networked image forming apparatus.

The ‘259 patent relates to a method of transmitting data between two devices in a network in which each device need not mount a connection management function.² The ‘259 system is applied to a home audio/video network having devices that are connected through a IEEE 1394 serial communication bus 9.³ Under one aspect of the ‘259 system, a first

¹ See, for example, page 9, lines 1-2 of the specification.

² See the ‘259 patent at column 2, lines 2-21.

³ See the ‘259 patent at column 3, lines 34-39 and lines 54-63.

controller node 53 communicates with a second controller node 60 to control a point-to-point connection between a producer node 51 and a consumer node 52.⁴

However, the ‘259 patent fails to disclose that the controller node 53 controls a connection that allows the producer node (e.g., networked image data transmitting apparatus) to communicate with more than one consumer node simultaneously. Instead, the ‘259 patent describes point-to-point communication. Therefore, the ‘259 patent fails to disclose a networked image data transmitting apparatus that includes “a serial bus configured to **simultaneously** transmit the image data from the image data obtaining section to the first networked image forming apparatus and to at least one other networked image forming apparatus,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 (and all claims depending thereon) are patentable over the ‘259 patent. Further, although independent Claims 2, 3, 12, and 13 are directed to different classes and scopes of invention, Claims 2, 3, 12, and 13 require features similar to those recited in Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2, 3, 12, and 13 (and all claims depending thereon) are also patentable over the ‘259 patent.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of Claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are rendered moot by the present amendment to the claims.

New Claims 14-19 are added to enhance the scope of protection provided under the claims. Support for Claims 14-19 can be found in the disclosure as originally, filed, for example, in page 9, lines 12-21; page 10, lines 3-13; page 10, lines 18-20; page 11, lines 4-16; and page 12, lines 7-11 of the specification and in Figures 7 and 8. Claims 14-19 depend from Claim 1 and are therefore believed to be patentable, at least for the reasons discussed above.

⁴ See the ‘259 patent at column 7, lines 26-32 and lines 36 to 49 and Figure 10.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, and in light of the above discussion, the pending claims as amended herewith are believed to be in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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